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the past few years, a wholesale publication of elementary scientific text books. Out of the large number published only a few have been worth the paper upon which they were printed. Dr. Alfred P. Gage's text-books, however, have been a notable exception to the rule. They have met with a deserved success, and it is pleasant to note that Dr. Gage has followed them up with a new work.

It is intended for two classes of students, those desirous of obtaining only the very elements of physics, and those who have the time and opportunity to go into the subject further. To facilitate the separation of the two courses, the additional matter necessary for the more advanced course is printed in smaller type and is indented about a quarter of an inch on the left hand margin of the page.

In separating the book into parts, the author follows the logical method of dividing the subject into, I. Molar Dynamics; II. Molecular Dynamics; III. Ether Dynamics, instead of using the old fashioned divisions of Mechanics, Sound, Heat, Light, and Electricity. After an introduction treating of units of measurement, and force in general, Part I., Molar Dynamics, is taken up. Here are studied Force and Momentum, Gravitation, Properties and Constitution of Matter, Molecular Forces, etc. A chapter is given to the dynamics of fluids, and one to sound. Under part II. a very clear discussion of Heat is given, considered only in its relation to molecules. Part III. treats, in the first chapter, of the radiant energy of the Ether, in regard to both its luminous and thermal effects, leaving for the last two chapters Magnetism and Electricity.

The diagrams and cuts are especially good, and the general appearance of the volume is very neat.

The value of this, as of any course in physics, is more than doubled when accompanied by a suitable selection of quantitative experiments to be performed by the student. A possible objection to the book, in the minds of some, might be that it contains too much, but, as the author says, "it is better to have too much than too little."

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JOHN B. EKELEY

A Primer of Historical English Grammar. By HENRY SWEET.
112 pages. Clarendon Press.

"THE object of this book," the author says, "is to give the essentials of historical English grammar as far as it is possible within the

limits of one hundred pages, excluding syntax, but including the history of the language, phonology, inflections, particles, composition, and derivation." This is a large aim for a very small book. For example, the history of English is treated in ten pages. Yet the little book is full to the brim of interesting facts in regard to phonology, inflection, and derivation, so that if carefully studied it must be of real value. A commendable feature is the appendix, containing short examples from all periods of English, together with copious notes.

O. F. E.

A Practical German Grammar.—By CALVIN THOMAS, Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures in the University of Michigan. New York: Henry Holt & Co. (1895); pp. ix. + 411.

WHEN Professor Thomas' edition of Goethe's *Tasso* appeared some years ago it was pronounced, judged from a literary point of view, that is, as a work intended for the student of literature, "the best edition of a German classic issued in this country" (*Modern Language Notes*, Vol. IV., p. 30), and his Goethe's *Faust*, Part I., which came out later, is undoubtedly the best edition of that masterpiece that has been published in this country or in England. This scholar has now produced a Grammar, which will surely take equal rank with his *Tasso* and his *Faust*. It is, indeed, in the opinion of the present writer, the best working German Grammar in the English language.

The book has been written in accordance with correct pedagogical principles and is in no sense an experiment, but embodies the ideas of method which have commended themselves to the author after many years of successful experience in the class room. It is divided into two parts. Part I. is designed as a beginner's manual, but is intended for beginners who have passed the age of childhood. The author holds the sound belief that such persons should have grammar lessons from the first, rightly maintaining at the same time, however, that the object of study is the language, not the grammar, the latter being, properly speaking, only the means to an end. Merely the fundamental facts, therefore, are given in Part I., and the order of presentation is the one usually followed in scientific grammars. The chapter on pronunciation and accentuation is clear and sensible. Not enough of the vocabulary of phonetics is introduced to confuse the student. The treatment of these subjects, pronunciation and accentuation, is indeed quite suf-